Postage to foreign countries added. THE SUN, New York City. Paris-Kiosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and

Riosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines. If our friends who fiver us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

#### The Straight Road.

Probably Admiral Dewey did not foresee the interpretation which friends of the Hay Pauncefote Treaty, which bars the United States from their natural and indispensable right to close the Nicaragua Canal against an enemy, would put upon his recently expressed opinion that "our fleet would be a safety of the canal in time of war as well as of peace." "Admiral Dewey," says the Army and Navy Journal, for example, "gives expression to the correct idea when he says, 'Fortify the canal by constructing battleships.

The United States can adopt no such plan of defence or policy. We cannot pledge ourselves to keep the canal open for our enemy while we secretly resolve to nullify that agreement through our fleets.

With the question whether our national interests, as they are connected with the isthr us canal, can be defended better by fortifications or fleets the United States Senate, now charged with the responsibility of dealing with the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, has practically no concern. The ratification of the treaty is not for the determination of the Admiral of the Navy or the General of the Army, or for other military or naval experts. The Senate's plain duty is to assert and preserve openly and honorably our continental right of control

For the present there is no other question.

# French-Canadian Loyalty to England.

Recent incidents in the Dominion seem to indicate that a large majority of the French-speaking inhabitants approve of the despatch of Canadian contingents to South Africa. It is doubtful, however, whether they, as yet, comprehend the gravity of the new relations to the British Empire to which they are henceforth committed logieally, and which, apparently, the British Government will ask them to assume.

The sincerity of the approval seems attested by the rebukes administered to an incendiary article which was published on Jan. 5 by La Semaine Réligieuse, a Quebec paper which, according to an assertion printed on its cover, is published "with the authority of the Archbishop." The article in question concluded with the following exhortation: "Lift up your eyes, French Canadians, for the day

of your redemption is at hand. If the English race be stricken by the justice of Gop and man, its people will be less overbearing and less insolent to ward the rest of the world, and will leave at last to the French race the right to develop freely their country of Canada. This colonial empire, which extends over one-half the earth, does it not resemble the statue of NEBUCHADNEZZAR with the feet of clay? A single stone, loosened from nobody knows where, might it not reduce to powder this Colossus which now astonishes the world? England is all-powerful just now; she may be strangely humiliated within a short time. Who knows if very soon she may not humbly crave the mercy of the nations she has insulted, and humbly beg that they ave her a few vestiges only of her ancient empire? Then-and it is this that we would point out-the abasement of the English race may make the Anglomaniacs of Canada more modest."

Within a few days after the publication of this article it was repudiated by the Archbishop of Quebec, and the editor of the paper apologized for inserting it. La Conservative paper, declared: "The duty is imposed on us of making a solemn protest against the article of the Semaine Réligieuse of Quebee on the war in Africa. The article goes beyond the bounds of criticism to enter the realm of injustice, disloyalty and even treason. To say that French Canadians are oppressed by England is a falsehood. If there is a people free in its polities, in its social life, in its language, in its laws and in its worship, it is the French people of Quebec." Mr. Louis Fre-CHETTE, the well-known French-Canadian writer, denounced "the man who printed such utterances in a British colony as a traiter to the Empire and a traiter to his own race. He commits the crime of lesenationalité and deserves the utter contempt of all thinking people." He added that La Semaine Réligieuse did not express the general feeling of the French-Canadian clergy, who, he said, "are thoroughly loyal." The Mayor of Quebec, Mr. PARENT, averred with vehemence that the article did not "represent the views and sentiments of the French-Canadian people toward the British Empire." The new French paper, Le Journat, referred to the article as simply "seditious," and pronounced it a regrettable "lucubration." The French-Canadians, it said, are "thoroughly loyal, and satisfled with the liberties they enjoy."

Archbishop BRUCHESI of Montreal also repelled responsibility for the article published in La Semaine Réligieuse. "We have been loyal," he said, "and we shall always be so. We oppose a formal denial to the foreigner who asserts that England oppresses us. We joyfully proclaim ourselves her subjects, and pray that she may keep her glorious place among the nations of the world." Finally, Sir WILFRID LAURIER, speaking at Sherbrooke in the province of Quebec, said that he and his colleagues had authorized Canadian volunteers to enlist in the English Army and to light for the mother country, "because we believed it our duty to do so in response to the unanimous sentiment of the people of this country.' At the same time he said: "I do not ask my fellow countrymen of French origin to feel the same enthusiasm about the war in South Africa as that which inspires our fellow countrymen of English origin. I know how to make the distinction, but I ask my fellow countrymen to do from a sense of duty what our English fellow countrymen do under the impulse of

The duty, then, of French-Canadians has led them to send troops to South Africa, not only to fight against the Boers in the independent republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, but also to aid in the suppression of a rebellion among the Afrikander subjects of the British Crown in the Cape Colony. Would this conception of their duty lead them to lend ecoperation in the surpression of an insurrection in one or more of the Australian colonies? If not, why not? Again, would they hold the Australians justitled by a like sense of duty in assisting

dian insurrection in the province of Quebec or in Manitoba? If not, why not? Those

Mr. WYNDHAM, Under-Secretary for War, said on Monday in the House of Commons that he expected the colonies would, in would seek to render a repetition of their present coadjutant action easier by some definite organization on prearranged lines. This means, if it mean anything, that the military forces, or a part of them, ac 'e permanent disposal of Great Britain.

Before such a request is granted, several questions will have to be discussed. Who is to pay the colonial forces employed for imperial purposes, and shall not the colonies be permitted to decide in advance whether those purposes meet with their approval? Is their approval to be regarded as implied in their consent to send small colonial delegations to the British Parliament where they will be overwhelmingly outvoted? Do the Canadians desire to drift into the relation occupied by Ireland to sufficient guarantee of the neutrality and Great Britain, instead of retaining the autonomy which they at present enjoy?

Not only the French-Canadians, but their compatriots of English descent, may find it difficult to solve the vital and far-reaching problems which will be pressed upon them in consequence of the despatch of troops to South Africa and of England's awakening to the profit derivable from her colonies in a military sense.

### The Tramp Venus

The interesting narrative that follows is published as local news by the Times of

Philadelphia: "Probably the smallest cargo, in comparison to the size of the vessel carrying it, that ever entered this port arrived yesterday. When the Custom House officials examined the manifest of the Italian steamer Venus, from Ancona via Bermuda, they were surprised to find that she carried only ave tone

of chalk. 'The Venus is a big steamer of 2,641 tons, and her little cargo at first seemed ridiculous. When an investigation was made, however, by a Times reporter, there was brought to light an interesting commentary on the value of the Italian shipping laws, and an equally interesting story of an Italian captain's shrowdness.

The captain's name is TRAPANI. When he was asked if the chalk was merely forwarded in such bulk to be worked up into samples, as is sometimes the case, he replied that it was not; that it was cargo, as manifested, and that he had come 4.000 miles across the seas to bring it.

'Then the story came out. The Italian Government pays one franc (or twenty cents) per ton on an Italian steamer's tonnage when it leaves the home port with cargo, per every thousand miles sailed. This is done to encourage commerce and exports. That five tons of chalk in the hold of the Venus, worth about \$50, means money in transit for that vessel. The tonnage of the Venus is 2.641. At twenty cents per ton this becomes \$528.20 per 1,000 miles, and since she has made 4,000 miles the amount earned is \$2,112.

"According to TRAPANI, this paid the expenses of the voyage and gave him a profit besides. He is not in a port where he may get a profitable return

This incident is attracting attention and evoking comment adverse to the Ship Subsidy bill now before Congress. For example, the Baltimore American solemnly remarks:

"The Times's expose of the Italian captain's shrewd scheme should serve as a warning to Con- Jim Hogg and more than twice as much as gress in its consideration of the Ship Subsidy bill. If the bill must be passed, it should embody restric tions that will prevent the legalized mulcting of the Government.'

On the contrary, the case of the Italian tramp which wears the name of the fairest of female Olympians, and bears hitherward a five-ton cargo of chalk, affords a striking argument for the adoption of the subsidy policy by our Government.

Let us suppose that the facts are exactly as stated in the Philadelphia Times. What follows?

That the Italian Government, in its desire to upbuild its merchant marine, and to stimulate industry in Italian shipyards, has deemed it profitable to enact a subsidy law much more liberal to shipping, and Presse, the most widely circulated French | much more expensive, at first cost, to the Treasury, than that which is now pending in our Congress.

Assuming even that the \$2,112 which TRAPANI receives from his Government more than covers the expenses of the Venus's voyage from Ancona to Philadelphia, what does Italy gain by it?

In the first place, the addition of a fine steel steamship to her fleet of merchantmen, available for military purposes in case of war. The Italian subsidy applies only to Italian built steamships in the transatlantic trade. The Venus was built, under the operations of this law, last year at Sestri. Perhaps this is her first voyage; of that we know nothing.

Secondly, if it were not for that subsidy the Venus with her Italian flag would not now be in an American port unloading her nominal cargo of chalk and preparing to take aboard the profitable return cargo which Captain TRAPANI expects to obtain at Philadelphia in the absence of American steamships of the same class prepared to perform the service. In other words, the Italian subsidy system enables Italian built ships to compete with those of Great Britain for the business of carrying America's exports.

It is by these considerations and in the long run, and not merely by the figures of one-half of a single round voyage of a particular ship, that the profits and losses in the transaction between Italy and her shipbuilders and shipowners and sailors must be estimated. The Venus will make many voyages and will not always carry chalk.

Now let us look a little more closely into the figures in their relation to possible American experience under the provisions of the Frye-Grosvenor measure. may be that Italy's subsidy rate is too large; it is certainly much more liberal than anything proposed by the bill at Washington. The Italian rate is 19.3 cents a ton for every thousand miles sailed, without regard to the size of the cargo. The rate proposed by the Frye-Grosvenor bill for American ships of the same class as the Venus is one and one-half cents a ton for every hundred miles up to fifteen hundred on the outward passage and one cent a ton for every hundred miles additional of the outward

That means that if the Venus were an American ship, sailing with a full cargo of American exports from Philadelphia to Italy, her subsidy under the Frye-Grosvenor bill for the outward voyage would be as follows in comparison with what Captain TRAPANI gets under the Italian subsidy law:

THE ITALIAN VENUS.
One ton per 1.000 miles
One ton per 4,000 miles
2.641 tons per 4.000 miles. \$2.038.85
THE AMERICAN VENUS.
One ton per first 1,000 miles
One ton per next 500 miles 7.5 cents
One ton per next 2,500 miles
******
One ton per 4,00 miles
2,641 tons per 4,000 miles\$1,254.47
We do not believe that it was profitable

merely for the sake of the \$2,038.85 which of New York. questions will soon require an answer, for he will receive as subsidy money from his Government. Figures of the actual cost of running similar ships under the Swedish or the Norwegian or the Danish future, continue their military support of flag, the most economically operated the Empire on a systematic basis and ships in the world, show expenses for an equivalent voyage far exceeding the amount of TRAPANI'S \$2,038 subsidy. But, however that may be, we are very sure that Captain SMITH, or Captain JONES or Captain colonies will be called upon to place heir TRAPHAGAN of the American Venus, would net a swamping loss if he undertook the same voyage in ballast because the Frye-Grosvenor act promised him a subsidy of \$1,254. This proposition is too obvious to equire demonstration.

But the vital fact is that the Frye-Grosenor bill does not promise him any such subsidy for carrying ballast or a few tons of chalk or chaff. The alarm of the Philadelphia Times and of the Baltimore American is groundless. The bill already embodies restrictions that will prevent the legalized mulcting of the Government. It provides as follows:

"No vessel shall be entitled to the full compensa tion under this clause unless she shall have cleared for a port of the United States with cargo to the amount of fifty per cent, of her gross tonnage, except as hereinafter in this clause stated \* \* \* and any shortage in the amount of cargo required and defined as aforesaid shall diminish the amount of the compensation in this paragraph provided for in the proportion that such shortage bears to the total cargo or its equivalent so required."

The exception omitted in our quotation refers to the case of a vessel with accommodations for carrying passengers and mails. In such a case the space so devoted is deducted from the gross tonnage before computing the fifty per cent. of cargo necessary to earn the full subsidy. The American Venus, sailing for Philadelphia with fifty tons of chalk would receive mighty few dollars of subsidy under the carefully guarded provisions of the Frye-Grosvenor bill.

There would be no danger of her undertaking the voyage under such conditions for the sake of the Government money there was in it, unless her captain and owners were as mad as a hare of the present calendar month.

### A Wonderful Bird.

It will be remembered that the race between Col. BRYAN's fast ostrich Silver Bill and the Hon. JAMES STEPHEN HOGG'S Daddy Longlegs, which was to have taken place on Congress avenue, Austin, Texas, last January, had to be postponed because of the Colonel's engagements in the East. It has not, however, been given up, and the Colonel is now in Texas quietly training himself and his gifted charger. Some fanatical Bryanites, unable to find that JEF-FERSON and JACKSON ever rode ostriches to saddle, poohpoohed the ostrich story. They asseverated that a man couldn't ride an estrich; that the ostrich was not heavy enough for the purpose, and so on. As there are ostriches in the United States that stand ten feet high, several inches higher than the Hon. Jim Hoss, and that weigh four hundred pounds or more, a hundred weight or so more than the Hon. the Colonel, the incredulity was without justification. We have not been able to proure photographs of the Colonel and Silver Bill taking their morning spin, as they seldom appear out of the reservation, but we reproduce from the

Florida Times-Union this striking portrait of a man considerably bigger than Col. Bryan and mounted firmly and comfortaathletic ostrich.

bly on a spirited and The luxury of Dollar Dinners has enlarged Col. BRYAN a little. Time and feed-

ing have expanded that once romantic form as they expanded Mr. TRACK TUPMAN'S, but a little training will soon put him into condition. As for Silver Bill, who is always in condition, we are informed that the bird shown in our sketch is a mere squab in comparison with him.

We believe that for once the Colonel will not come in second.

## Mr. Gerry Challenges the State.

The concluding and unanswerable argument before the Judiciary Committee of the State Senate on Wednesday in favor of the bills making the Gerry Society subject to the visitation of the State Board of Charities and making private charities in general subject to the same inspection was made with tremendous power by Mr. ELBRIDGE T. GERRY himself. Mr. GERRY declared that, if the bills passed the Legislature, he would resign from the presidency of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

This in reason settles the matter. The members of our Legislature are selfrespecting and intelligent, and it is not probable that one among them will be found willing to go upon record as upholding the proposition that, bowing to threats, from Mr. GERRY, the State of New York must entrust to him its sovereign powers. The speech of Mr. GERRY before the Senate Committee on Wednesday represented egotism and insolence run mad.

While the resignation of Mr. GERRY from the presidency of his Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children would be an unexpected result of the present conflict, it would still be a most gratifying and beneficial one. Nothing has more hampered the labors of those most deeply and wisely interested in charitable work in this city in past years than the unfavorable public prejudice against such endeavors that has been excited by the intolerable bearing of Mr. GERRY. The retirement of the latter and the probable winding up of his society would leave the people of the city free to accomplish what has long been most desirable, namely, the establishment of a place of temporary de tention for children under the age of 16 years, and also an especial and isolated court for the trial of criminal cases in which children are the accused. The need of such tribunal or tribunals has long been evident. The harshness of placing children, even temporarily, in confinement along with older persons cannot be exaggerated. While on the other hand, the natural reluctance of complainants or prosecutors to proceed against children because of unwillingness to place them in the association with older criminals made necessary by such action, has resulted oftentimes in the treatment of youthful offenders with much

less severity than was deserved or wise. After the hearing at Albany on Wednesday, no one can dispute that the charge frequently made in THE STN that the question at the bottom of the controversy between Mr. GERRY and the State Board of

British troops to suppress a French-Cana- for Captain TRAPANI of the Italian Venus to Charities, is simply Mr. GERRY's assertion | tickets to and a vote in the Silver Republican sail his 4,000 miles practically in ballast | that he is bigger and better than the State

The police must learn the law, even if somebody has to suffer for it. By hushing the bands that play for the ears of diners at the hotels, they have learned that music under such circumstances is no more a concert requiring a license than the gathering of fashionable beauty, which is usually to be seen at the more conspicuous hotels, constitutes a Beauty Show."

THE SUN's report of yesterday about the police raid upon hotel music showed that during the last few years the taste for art and luxury have grown in New York to a degree that would be incredible were it not for this conclusive evidence of it. The number of hotels and restaurants that provide music for their guests, many of them, doubtless, at very considerable expense, is extraordinary.

The Hon, BENJAMIN RYAN TILLMAN must shudder as he sees how fast cotton manufacturing is growing in his State. He may wake up some fine morning to find himself an exransionist.

Some time ago Alderman Brick of Boston limbed up the steeps of Fame and thence hurled himself at Admiral Dewey. Now a member of the Boston Common Council, the Hon. CHARLES AUGUSTULUS HORRIGAN, has limbed the same steeps and is moving himself proudly. He has asked for the appointment of a committee to request Secretary Long to lend Boston a cruiser for the purpose of transporting a committee of the Council to the Paris Exposition. The committee is eager to go, but the Secretary will have to refuse its request. The United States thinks too much of Boston Councilmen to expose them to the sea.

New trouble among the pale sons of thought in Boston. The hurdy-gurdy curdles their convolutions. "For many intellectual workers of all sorts," writes a correspondent of the Transcript, "it makes work impossible while it plays." If this is true, it is a grievous fault, and yet, as between the hurdy-gurdy and most of pale sons of thought in Boston, most persons will prefer the hurdy-gurdy.

The Hon. EDWIN BURRETT SMITH, a large part of the Chicago Anti-Imperialist League, records "tremendous accessions to our ranks." Thus generously is the Hon. HEZ LUNG of Kentucky welcomed to the Aguinaldian

Three New England States, Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont, have formally adopted State flowers," the pine cone, the violet and the red clover respectively, and a demand, attended by much recrimination among the partisans of various flowers, has been subnitted to the Massachusetts Legislature for the adoption of the "mayflower." This would seem to be a most felicitous selection for that State. Vigorous objection has been made, however for the peculiar reason that its adoption would be regarded as an unwarranted infringement of the sentimental preference of Nova Scotia. In that province, it is pointed out, the mayflower grows profusely. It has figured in the writings of Nova Scotia's poets and novelists. and in the speeches of its public men, is represented in the copper coinage of the province, and appears upon the flag of Nova Scotia. together with the motto. "We Bloom Amid the

Possibly, says one Boston correspondent timidly, the objection will be made that Nova Scotia, not being politically a part of the United States, has no right to remonstrate against the adoption by Massachusetts of the mayflower as an emblem : but if the Canadian Parliament should vote to adopt the eagle as the national emblem of Canada, and relegate the beaver to obscurity, "it would undoubtedly cause a pretty lively commotion on this side of the border," says this Bostonian. Undoubtedly it might, but the substitution of the eagle for the beaver as the emblem of Canadian liberty and progress, when it comes-and it must come in evitably-will create no "lively commotion" on either side of the present border line. The mayflower would seem to be as appro-

priate for Massachusetts as is the pine cone for poppy for California, and international objecimportance at this time.

Will our enlightened and philosophica contemporary, the Providence Journal, be good enough to explain why the Prohibitionis City Convention of Providence consisted of only nine delegates? The number is sacred. but a trifle small. We hate to believe that Providence is meagrely stocked with Prohibitionists or greatly attached to the old familiar

The Hon. IGNATIUS DONNELLY, the Sagof Nininger, has wearied for a moment of the packs of many-colored politics which he carries, and he is lecturing once more on "Atintis." Among the wonders and monsters of the antediluvian world which he hurls upon the stereopticon, he finds some faint reflection f those Octopuses huge with which he delights to combat; and his soul is comforted.

The Social Democracy, a radical offshoot from Bryanism, has been holding a national convention in Indianapolis and giving proof of its political sociability by putting up a separate Presidential ticket with E. V. DEBS as its head. The Social Democracy has a modest record of 33,545 votes for its candidate, MATCHETT, at the last general election. It had 3,250 in Massachusetts. 2,600 in Wisconsin. 1.700 in Missouri and 400 in New Hampshire The Social Democracy has an Executive Board, HEATH of Milwaukee are the managing triumvirate, and at the recent Indianapolis convention DEBS was nominated for President and JOB HARRIMAN of California, a mem ber of one of the Socialist Labor parties and its candidate for President, was nominated for Vice-President The effect of the nomination of DEBS must be lighten to the extent of such malcontent seceders as will join him in their departure from Bryanism, the burden of the Democrats n this year's election, for it was in deference to the pledged support of DEBs and his asso ciates that several of the declarations of the Chicago National Convention of 1800 were

The Hon. JOHN LIND. Fusionist Governor of Minnesota, walls that the United States is on the way to ruin and destined to become another Spain. We had hoped that when Mr. LIND got a job he would be more cheerful but nothing seems to do him any good. He had better leave the country before it goes to

The Secretary of the Anti-Imperialist eague, a gentleman of the fantastic name of Mize, is circulating letters asking for "the cooperation of all liberty-loving people." We mention Mr. Mizz's name in order that all persons who feel that liberty is in danger may write to him and cooperate with him. At the same time it must be admitted that it is rather a droll situation to find that MIZE and Liberty are one and inseparable.

Which his name is the Hon, Envino Winston In the fall of 1808 he discerned 10,000,000 signatures to anti-imperialist petitions to Congress and got a few thousand. In 1900 he discerns from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 independent anti-imperialist votes; and, we dare say, he may be able to roll up two or three hundred. He is unequalled as a discerner.

The Hon. CHARLES ALGERNON TOWNE. chairman of the Silver Republican National Committee, has a self-possession. He inform his party by circular-and the expense for postage can't be large-that all Stiver Republicans who are in Kansas City July 4 will have

Convention, which is to be "a mass convention." So there will be no inconvenient counting of delegates. Anybody who can't get into the Democratic convention will be welcome to Mr. Towne's. As a trainer of a featherweight party he has positive genius.

The Hon. BEBE ANSON is a Democratic candidate for Alderman in Chicago. Was it worth while to rise so high and then fall so hard?

#### IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The reports from both sides in South Africa point to an early renewal of hostilities in Natal. Gen. Warren's division, after having been embarked for transference to East London to join Gen. Gatacre's force on the Orange River, was countermanded, disembarked and sent up to the north again. No reason is given for this sudden change of plan, but the reports of reconnoissances having been made toward the Van Reenen's and Cundycleugh passes and other points in the Drakensberg Mountains and in the Biggarsberg prepare one for some movement on the part of Gen Buller on the return of Gen. Warren with his division. Whether it will be first against the passes northwest of Ladysmith into the Free State, or across the Buffalo River and into the Transvaal by Vryheid and Utrecht, will depend on whether it is considered more important to open early communication between Lord Roberts and Gen. Buller, or by sending a strong force to threaten the left rear of the Boer position in Natal, to compel them at once to evacuate the rest of British territory now held by them. Another reason for Gen. Warren's return to Natal may be that it is desired to draw as large a Boer force as possible to the defence of their eastern frontier in view of contemplated operations from the railway line on the west, Lord Roberts at the same time pressing them in front from Bloemfontein. The capture of a dozen locomotives and some rolling stock by Gen. French at Bloem-

fontein has enabled Lord Roberts to detach a

small force south by the railway to hold out a hand to Gens. Gatacre and Clements, who have joined hands at Bethulie, and have sent a force to open up communications with Gen. Brabant in the Aliwal North district, where there appears to be a body of Free Staters and local insurgents who have still to be dealt There is as yet no news as to where the Boers will make their first stand north of Bloemfontein. Gen Joubert, according to one report, has left Pretoria for Natal, while another says that he has gone toward the south. Kroonstad is officially described as the new seat of the Free State Government, and although the accounts of the sentiments of the Free State burghers are conflicting, it seems probable that those of Dutch origin will throw in their lot with the Transvaal, unless the proclamation expected to be issued by Lord Roberts guarantees them full political rights and undisturbed enjoyment of their property. The defection the non-Dutch portion of the population as soon as the British occupation was definite and effective, was foreshadowed long before the war; their reception of Lord Roberts and his army when he entered Bioemfontein had therefore nothing extraordinary about it. As yet, however, there is no sign that the Dutch Free State burghers are breaking away from the alliance with the Transvaal. President Steyn has taken up his residence at Kroonstad with a portion of his executive council and his officials, and will continue to direct the administration of that part of the State still under his control, though liable under the circumstances to be proclaimed

in rebellion against the British Government. The reports from Pretoria and other sources seem to indicate that the Transvaal Government has decided on a policy of concentration. and will abandon all those points not essential to the success of the general scheme of defence. The possibility, however, of some form of intervention appears to be still entertained by them from their issuing an argumentative reply to Lord Salisbury's declaration in answer to the proposals of the two Presidents. But any hope they may have of its being listened to must be based on something of which the rest of the world has no certain knowledge, for there is nothing more complications threatening the British Empire tions of comity and poesy, in consideration of in other directions, will induce the present the claims of residents of Nova Scotia to a Government of England to abstain from the prior selection of that flower as an official absolute subjugation of the two republics and emblem, would seem to be of little practical their absorption in the British dominions in South Africa.

## The Color Question in Africa.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I read in your daily of to-day the letter relating to overtures on the part of the Boers for peace, and notice (may I not say?) the diplomatic references as to the matter on the part of our officials, still I feel bound in the interest of justice, in behalf of humanity, for its reflective influence on our country, to say some party oncerned, or who may become concerned should take an interest in favor of having a policy adopted in the Boer territory in Africa which will treat the natives not in the brutal, service manner with which they have been treated by their subjugators; it has been a disgrace to Christianity, to civilization, and sympathy for the Boers has been checked and greatly affected by the same. Had the Boers treated the subjected native Africans as they would have been treated were they British subjects, more sympathy for the Boers would have been expressed. Colorio not a subject of unjust contempt among British subjects. It a proud, self-respecting, manly colored American, know what it is to be a subject of unjust contempt: if preys on me continuously; its existence is a reflection on our nation. Its infquity may be measured by the words of Bishen Potter of your Episcopal Diocese, who said in my henring that he did not see how any manly, self-respecting colored man could remain in this country. Of course he was replied to; the colored citizen was defended, but the Bishop's reflection on our common country was none the less biting and severe. Saye the Boers from further reflection on the matter referred to.

Newport, R. I., March 14. policy adopted in the Boer territory in Africa

NEWPORT, R. I., March 14.

From the Detroit Free Press.

"May you take this lesson home with you to-ght, dear friends," concluded the preacher at e end of a very long and wear some sermon. And may its spiritual truths sink deep into our hearts and lives to the end that your ouls may experience salvation. We will now bow our heads in prayer. Deacon White, will you lend?"

you lead?"
There was no response.
"Deacon White," this time in a louder voice,
Deacon White, will you lead?"
Still no response. It was evident that the
deacon was slumbering. The preacher made
a third appeal and raised his voice to a pitch
that succeeded in waking the drowsy man.
"Deacon White, will you please lead?"
The deacon rubbed his eyes and opened them
wonderingly.
"Is it my lead? No—I just dealt."

# Lept and the Universalists

From the Boston Evening Transcr pt.
At the meeting of the Universalist Club at the Thorndike last evening the Rev. D. Hamilton spoke of the increased observance of Lent in the Univerures to show that 500 Universalist churches were now observing Lent. President E. H. Capen went into the history of Lent and said that the times had changed as regards fasting, b dily abstinence not being as great as it was. The fact that is of real importance is the spiritual fast, a fast which we are justified in advocating and more than justified in observing. The Rev. J. M. Puliman said the Church should make itself into a school of spiritual and moral culture, whereof one of the great means is observance of this season made by God for this very thing. "What the Universalist Church needs is the ethical passion."

## A Rival of Bilnd Tom in California.

Fr m the Ov r and Mon Wu.

The musical people of the beautiful town Ukiah, in northern California, are intensely interested in a produge in their midst whose fame bids fair to outlest the proverbial nine days allotted to local sensations. Indeed, Mr. Harlan, the discoverer of the extraordinary musical capabilities of little Paloma Schramm, unhesitatingly pronounces this remarkable child a far greater marvel than that little lady, or even than Blind Tom. The my steries of keys and strings are as naught to this infantile genius, weether the instrument be pisho, vicins, harp, zither, guitar, mandelin, or badlo, and he never forgets the number and names of attract on any instrument which his unders have once

"SHELDONISM."

Treated as an Indication of a Decadence of Religious Faith.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Daring the last year or two you have often exposed the weakness of the Church, owing to its lack of faith, or lack of belief in the supernatural. The strongest possible illustration of this weakness is to be found in what has been called "Sheldonism." It is illustrated not only by the man and his teachings, but also by his following. His books and pamphlets have been published by thousands. In England they have created a urore; yet notwithstanding the attention they have attracted. I have never seen a criticism of them that seemed to me to show any realizing

sense of their un-Scriptural character. Of course, if there is no Divine or supernatural power present and active among men, the Church has been all wrong in the past and there is no hope for the race except in moral reforms and human culture and social rejuvenation, and for these purposes the Church is no longer needed. In that case the innumerable "movements" of the present day, inside as well as outside of the Church, are all that are required. Morality is all that is necessary and Unitarianism is more than sufficient.

But the experience of the past seems to ndicate that two things are necessary for the betterment of the human race, first, belief in a divine and supernatural power of some kind, and, second, obedience to the Divine will as it is revealed in the written Word.

Mr. Sheldon apparently does not accept either of these two requirements of a spiritual life. Although he occupies, I believe, an orthodox pulpit, he is in doctrine a Unitarian I have read his book. "In His Steps." and although I find in it many references to an undefined power or influence that was felt at the mention of the name of Jesus, such as all religious people are in the habit of using, there is no clear or unmistakable statement of the ecessity of any supernatural or Divine work in the soul, which Jesus and Jesus alone can do.

On the contrary, his constant teaching is that we must follow the example of Jesus; the great aim must be to discover what Jesus would do under any given circumstances and to do that. This is Unitarianism pure and simple. It is making Jesus a mere example, not a Divine Being come down on earth to do a supernatural work for men. Such teaching, from a socalled orthodox pulpit, received with toleration, or at least without protest, by so many so called Christian people, affords most damning proof of the decadence of faith.

And this is not all. Mr. Sheldon and his followers not only fail to grasp the real mission of the incarnate Jehovah in the world, but they also give us no guide through the wilderness of this life, except our own conceptions of what Jesus would do if He were living in our time. Jesus Himself had no such criterion of con-He came to do "the will of the Father" which sent Him. That will was formulated for Him in the Ten Com-"As I have kept My Father's Commandments," He says. He came "not to destroy the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfil them." He did fulfil them by living them out infinitely on every plane of being from the highest to the lowest, and by meeting and overcoming all the enemies of mankind in doing so. It is in this sense that He is "an example" unto us. By keeping the Commandments and overcoming all opposition in keeping them He took to Himself "all power in heaven and on earth" and made it possible for us to keep them in His name and strength. In this way He wrought an actual and Divine salvation for us, made Himself an adequate object of faith and belief, and rendered it possible for us to follow His example by keeping His Commandments if we would. For this reason He "If ye keep My Commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My

us an infallible "lamp unto our feet and light unto our path." This I submit is very different from the sentimentalism of Mr. Sheldon. It points out to us a "plain path" in the Commandments as Maine, the peach blossom for Delaware or the | certain than that nothing but the most serious | they are explained and illustrated in the Bible, and affords us all the stimulus and confidence that we can possibly stand in need of in keeping them. Such a belief is adequate for the salvation of the world. Nothing else can do it. S. S. SEWARD. NEW YORK, March 14.

#### Mr. Sheldon's Experiment Denounced as Impertinent and Sensational

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: During he past few days the public prints of the country have been devoting considerable space to accounts of the experiment of the Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, who has essayed to show us how Christ would have conducted an end-ofthe-nineteenth-century newspaper. The surprising thing is that in all this mass of details. in all these accounts, there has been hardly a word of criticism. Why is this? Has the great reading public suspended judgment rending the completion of the experiment? If so it has experienced a wonderful change of heart. THE SUN has long numbered among its cor-

respondents many adepts in the gentle art of 'roasting:" are they all in hiding? Unless they are all under bonds to keep the peace and, therefore, are stient of necessity, it would seem that they are neglecting a splendid opportunity. For here we have such a specimen of egotism as it is seldom given to us to see. This man tells us in his writings that the thoughts of the Creator are unfathomable, that no man can read the mind of God aright, yet, after making such statements, he stands before us and says: "I will show you how the Master would have done it." As an example of unlimited gall, combined with a very limited sense of the ridiculous, the Rev. Charles must be awarded the blue ribbon. It must be that much royalties from the sensational works of his pen have made the Doctor mad; once more the fool has rushed in where angels seldom

Imagine the how! which would go up from the clergy of our land if a man who had spent the best part of his life grinding out "copy for a newspaper should come before the public with the assumption that he had secured the right to occupy a certain pulpit for one week and that during that time he would show the people how Christ would conduct a church were He on earth at the present time. How the reverends would jump about and protest yet would there be anything more incongruous in such an act than there is in the one under discussion? The papers of our country need no defenders; they are neither better nor worse than they ought to be; they are what the people demand and they are truly the pulse of these people. As a whole their standards are very high and almost without exception they are above corrupting influences. is very certain, also, that their influence is at least as great as that of these same clergymen. All this being so, and the power of these organs being so tremendous, it must follow that they are not in the experimental stage and that they are not manage 1 and controlled by novices. This being so, what business has a freak of this sort to essay such management? It seems impossible that a movement of this kind should in any way advance the cause of Christianity; it is, however, making Dr. Shel don notorious and it seems hardly possible that the man should be so devoid of intelligence as to expect any better result. If his motives are different, then what a world of self-assurance the man must possess to pose as a living exponent of the Saviour's social, pecuniary and theological fileas and motives. Poor, old. bleeding Kansas, how your wind-sifted facial adornments are being pulled "in Christ's I. R. HARTLEY. NEW YORK. March 14.

It Works Both Ways.

From the Chicago Record

"Personal appearance is a helpful factor in busi-Yes, and unsinces success is a helpful factor in

AMERICANISM ALERT. Some Further Representative Remarks

About the Canal. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The tories and others who have long plotted for closer relations between the greatest and best two peoples on earth, can find little fault with the progress they are making when they read the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. That document deserves preservation as a fair specimen of British acumen and American guilelessness in the realm of diplomacy. It thoroughly abolishes Monroeism, angers most true Americans and hurts the Republican party about as severely as if Mr. Hay had signed away our National capitol.

The assumption that we can safely agree to leave the essentially important strategic part of our coast line unfortified and trust to luck to possess it in the scramble of war, is born of such idiocy as conduces to the early decay of nations If England were in our situation, the Nica-

ragua Canal would have a Gibraltar at each end and redcoats would line the townaths. It would be as reasonable for us to resign milltary supervision of our Atlantic or Pacific coast as to agree to anything less than full military jurisdiction over a canal which is to be the key of this continent. We want a canal for our own narestricted

domestic necessities, for defensive purposes, for home trade and for profit. We want to own ft, run it and see that it is not a joint stock fizzle in a national sense to be owned and elipped by the Bank of England or the Bothschilds eventually, as are the stocks of far too many of our best-paying enterprises.

The resurrection of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, which is dead by English acts, appears like a tory thought. The treaty is a dead thing. void by changed circumstances. No treaty is valid or respectable when it stands in the way of vital interests to either party to it. If England is friendly or reasonable she will not insist upon conditions detrimental to us. If she is unfriendly and insists upon conditions disadvantageous to us then we must force our way to right.

Treaties serving one age may be unsuited to other ages or conditions. The Republic is progressive and must stand firmly by Monroeism or perish as a free Government. O. H. KIMBALL

DWIGHT, Mass., March 14.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SET: The construction of canals across the American isthmus is essentially an American affair, primarily for the purpose of promoting American interests. Why can we not set aside the Clayton - Bulwer and the Hay - Pauncefote treaties by the United States Congress passing a joint resolution directing the Executive to invite the Republics of this hemisphere to jointly guarantee the neutrality of the American isthmian canals except in such cases only as such neutrality may menace the interests of the American Republics?

Would that not be a show of our reliance upon the Monroe Doctrine? Would it not more closely knit together the several American Republics?

If Europe should object to that kind of guarantee, what of it? AN AMERICAN POB AMERICANS. WASHINGTON. March 14.

THE EXCAVATION OF UR.

The City Where Abraham 'as Born Which Existed for Thousands of 'ears Before.

From the Outle Dr. E. J. Banks of 10 Appian Way, Cambridge, Mass., recently United States Consul at Bagdad, is the director of an expedition now being formed to excavate Ur. The work is undertaken for the benefit of the Smithsonian

institution. Ur lies half way between the ruins of Babylon and the Persian Gulf and is six miles south Father's Commandments and abide in His of the River Euphrates. We must measure its love." In this way the Lord Jesus Christ behistory by millenniums. Lugal-kigub-nidudu, comes a Divine and supernatural Redeemer King of Ur. is probably the earliest monarch and Saviour, and since the Ten Commandments mentioned in history. As long before Abraare sufficient for all our wants. He also gave ham's time as Abraham was before our time, Ur was a great city. According to the stories in Genesis. Abraham was born there, and so was

Genesis, Abraham was born there, and so was Sarah: there they spent their youth and were married. At Ur Abraham and his people had their first glimmer of what was to become the Hebrew religion; from there they emigrated to Syria. As the centre of the worship of Sin, the Moon-God, the importance of Ur continued for three and a half millenniums, down to the end of the Babylonian Empire. The great temple Gish-shir-gal, the home of Sin, is the best preserved of any of the specimens of Babylonian architecture still standing. Half a century ago Mr. Taylor, a British Consul, made some excavations, resulting in the discovery of the inscriptions of King Nabonidus, which speak of the Crown Prince, the Belshaszar of the Bible, whom scholars of Mr. Taylor's day regarded as a mythical character. The work thus begun, but afterward strangely abandoned, should now be renewed, not only for its own sake, but also because the people of Nasaria the most modern town in Babylonia, and but half an hour away) are beginning to dig bricks from the ruins, destroying the tablets and defacing the inscriptions which they uncover. The facilities of Nasaria will enable excavators to dispense with the discomforts of camp life in the desert, while the excavations accomplished by Mr. Taylor, together with his accurate drawings, will enable a new expedition to reach results with a great saving of time and expense.

expedition to reach results with a great saving of time and expense. expention to read results a grown and expense.

The present appearance of Ur is that of three stories of an ancient temple rising seventy feet above the plain; surrounding the temple is a group of mounds half a mile in diameter, the runs of a city which in the carliest chapters of the Bible is called "Ur of the Chaldees." The estimated amount required for the complete excavation of Ur in two years is \$50,000. An appeal for funds is made to all interested in Bible study, in history, or in archæology, or who desire to see the remains of Ur among the treasures of our National Museum.

The Great American Principle of the Separation Between State and Church.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Beyond a doubt THE SUN is right in its position on the question of religion in the public schools. James Madison's "Memorial and Remonstrance Against the General Assessment, Presented to the General Assembly of Virginia at the Session for the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-five," makes wholesome reading just now. Perhaps you might find room for a sentence or two: "The religion. then, of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate. This right is, in its nature, at unalienable right. \* \* \* We maintain, therefore, that in matters of religion, no man's righ is abridged by the institution of civil society. and that religion is wholly exempt from its

eognizance." This is the true American doctrine, but it has not always been maintained. The doctrine of religious liberty, of absolute separation between Church and State is America's most precious contribution to political science. Any attempt to hand over the public schools to the various sects, subsidizing these out of the pubto treasury would, of course, be an immediate and influential interference by the State in matters of religion and would not only work the destruction of the public school system, as you have pointed out, but also would mortally hurt the principle of separation between Church and State.

We who are more or less remote from the great metropolis watch your columns daily to see what is stirring there, for New York's influence on the country at large is potential in other than political directions. RICHMOND, Va , March 8.

The Heartless Octopus

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT In a letter just eccived from a cousin of mine, who is chief night perator of the Rochester branch of the Buffalo Telephone Company, speaking of the recent heavy snowsform in that city, the following original extract speaks for itself.

"The four corners and Main street looked like & "The four corners and Main street looked like a country village, the rest of the city like a wilderness. It was a record-breaker. I did not have a chance to get home from Wednesday night until Saturday morning. The Telephone Company bearded us over at the Livingston Hotel for two days, 12 and \$45-boss for about thirty girls for two days, hedden all the sieghts they hired to take the relief girls base and form to their homes. Don't you think our company is good to us? They also sent measurer boys to all our homes letting them know where we were. We were treated fine."
Is this not another sample of what the Giant Octopus will do when he cuts loose?

Is this not Mr. Bryan's idea of the Trusts' oppression?

WILLIAM J. OULLAND ARDSLEY ON HUDSON, Peb. 11.

MUS Rare The Carne splend to the

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